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# Environment and sustainable development

## Report of the Second Committee*

*Rapporteur*: Mr. Hussam Edin **A'Ala** (Syrian Arab Republic)

## I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 100 (see A/54/588, para. 2). Action on the item was taken at the 21st, 29th, 36th and 44th to 46th meetings, on 25 October, 1 and 9 November and 1 and 3 December 1999. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/54/SR.21, 29, 36 and 44-46).

## II. Consideration of proposals

### A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/54/L.7 and A/C.2/54/L.51

2. At the 21st meeting, on 25 October, the representative of Cameroon, on behalf of Cameroon, Chad, the Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Conservation and sustainable development of Central African forest ecosystems" (A/C.2/54/L.7), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recalling* the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992, General Assembly resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992, on the report of the Conference, and resolution 47/191 of

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in eight parts, under the symbol A/54/588 and Add.1-7.

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22 December 1992, establishing the institutional arrangements for follow-up of the Conference,

"*Recalling* its resolution 53/188 of 15 December 1998 on implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly,

"*Bearing in mind* that Central Africa has, after Amazonia in South America, the world's second largest forest heritage, whose natural characteristics play a decisive part in the equilibrium of the entire planet's biosphere and ecosystems,

"*Welcoming* the Declaration by the Summit of Central African Heads of State on conservation and sustainable management of tropical forests, held at Yaoundé,

"*Mindful* of the need for conservation and sustainable management of Central Africa's forests ecosystems, which constitute simultaneously an important natural asset for present and future generations and a worldwide ecological asset,

"*Convinced* that the sustainable management of forest resources can contribute significantly to the economic, social and cultural development of the States bordering thereon,

"*Convinced* of the important role of subregional and international cooperation in the management of forest ecosystems and of combating desertification in keeping with the international commitments entered into by the international community,

"*Considering* that a synergy of international and national efforts is essential in order to achieve sustainable development,

"1. *Decides* to establish a trust fund to provide sustainable support for the Central African countries in their efforts for the management and conservation of and research into forest ecosystems;

"2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

3. At the 44th meeting, on 1 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Daúl Matute (Peru), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Conservation and sustainable development of Central African forest ecosystems" (A/C.2/54/L.51), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.7.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.51 (see para. 21, draft resolution I).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.51, draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.7 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

## B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/54/L.16 and A/C.2/54/L.61

6. At the 29th meeting, on 1 November, the representative of Guyana, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "World Solar Programme 1996-2005" (A/C.2/54/L.16), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 53/7 of 16 October 1998, by which it, *inter alia*, endorsed the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 as a contribution to the overall

sustainable development agenda and invited all Member States of the United Nations to contribute to its successful implementation,

"*Reaffirming* that the convening of the World Solar Summit at Harare on 16 and 17 September 1996, at which the Harare Declaration on Solar Energy and Sustainable Development was adopted and the preparation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 approved, was a step in pursuance of the implementation of Agenda 21, which is a multifaceted and, at the same time, fundamental programme of action for achieving sustainable development,

"*Recognizing* that mutually supportive efforts at the national and international levels are imperative in the pursuit of sustainable development, which includes, *inter alia*, the provision of financial resources and the transfer of technology for the application of cost-effective energy systems and wider use of environmentally friendly, renewable energies,

"*Acknowledging* the important role of the General Assembly in promoting the practical implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005,

"*Expressing its appreciation* of the efforts of the Secretary-General in bringing the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 to the attention of relevant sources of funding and technical assistance,

"*Noting* the establishment of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Energy with a view to ensuring the coordination of the activities of all relevant organizations in the United Nations system in the preparations for the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2001,

"*Noting* that the Global Renewable Energy Education and Training Programme 1996-2005 constitutes one of the major programmes of universal value of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005,

"*Calling* for further action to ensure that the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 is fully integrated into and brought into the mainstream of the efforts of the United Nations system towards attaining the objective of sustainable development,

"*Emphasizing* that the achievement of more substantive results in the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 will require the more active and collaborative involvement of all concerned parties, including Governments, multilateral funding agencies and relevant parts of the United Nations system,

"1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled 'World Solar Programme 1996-2005', on measures taken by the various entities of the United Nations system for the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005;

"2. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the initiative of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in inviting the executive heads of the competent organs and programmes of the United Nations system to cooperate in the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005;

"3. *Takes note* of the role that the World Solar Commission has so far played in the mobilization of international support and assistance for the implementation of many of the national high-priority projects on renewable sources of energy included in the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, many of which are being executed with national funding;

"4. *Commends highly* the efforts of many Member States in taking concrete national actions, including legislative measures, which have resulted in the wider use of renewable sources of energy in their countries;

"5. *Takes note with appreciation* of the financial support that has been provided by some developed countries Members of the United Nations and some intergovernmental organizations, within and outside the United Nations system, for the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005;

"6. *Calls upon* all relevant funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to support the efforts being made for the development of the renewable energy sector in developing countries based on environmentally friendly renewable sources of energy of demonstrated viability, while taking fully into account the development structure of energy-based economies of developing countries, and to assist in the attainment of the investments necessary to expand energy supplies beyond urban areas;

"7. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to make efforts to promote public awareness activities in all Member States, with the support of international, regional and national institutions, both public and private, regarding the strategic importance of the Global Renewable Energy Education and Training Programme 1996-2005 in attaining the objective of sustainable development;

"8. *Invites* all Governments to encourage the involvement of all relevant stakeholders including the private sector, in the promotion of research on and development of renewable sources of energy within the context of the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, in accordance with their respective national policies;

"9. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize adequate technical assistance and funding and to utilize fully existing international funds for the effective implementation of national and regional high-priority projects in the area of renewable sources of energy;

"10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on concrete action being taken to implement the present resolution, including recommendations on appropriate modalities for the mobilization of resources for the effective implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005;

"11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session, under the item entitled 'Environment and sustainable development' a sub-item entitled 'Implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005'."

7. At the 45th meeting, on 1 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Daúl Matute (Peru), introduced a draft resolution entitled "World Solar Programme 1996-2005" (A/C.2/54/L.61), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.16.

8. At the same meeting, the representative of Zimbabwe proposed an amendment to operative paragraph 8 of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.61, by which the words "within the context of the implementation" would be replaced by the words "within this context, in the implementation".

9. Also at its 45th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.61, as orally amended (see para. 21, draft resolution II).

10. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.61, draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.16 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

## C. Draft resolutions A/C.2/54/L.17 and A/C.2/54/L.67

11. At the 29th meeting, on 1 November, the representative of Guyana, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme" (A/C.2/54/L.17), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, by which it decided to establish the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

"*Also recalling* its resolution 53/242 of 28 July 1999 on the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements,

"*Further recalling* the results and decisions of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly, convened for the purpose of the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, and, in particular, paragraphs 119 and 122 to 124 of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,

"*Recalling* the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its nineteenth session,

"*Having considered* the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twentieth session,

"1. *Welcomes* the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twentieth session and the decisions contained therein;

"2. *Endorses*, in particular, Governing Council decision 20/31 of 4 February 1999, entitled 'Proposed programme budget of the United Nations Environment Programme: revised requirements for the biennium 1998-1999 and proposed requirements for the biennium 2000-2001', which gives concrete support to the integrated work programme of the Programme and endorsement of its new functional organizational structure, and provides for an increased level of funding to the Environment Fund for the biennium 2000-2001;

"3. *Encourages* the United Nations Environment Programme, in close consultation with the respective Conference of the Parties, to facilitate and support coordination within and among environmental and environment-related conventions and agreements, and to address the scientific and policy analysis of global environmental issues, bearing in mind Governing Council decision 20/18 of 4 February 1999 concerning multilateral environmental assessment and programmatic support to multilateral environmental conventions;

"4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session, and encourages the Governing Council at future sessions to provide scientific, technical and policy information and analysis of and advice on global environmental issues to the Commission at future sessions and, in particular, to

contribute to the preparation of the ten-year review of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002;

"5. *Welcomes* the progress in the negotiation of an international legally binding instrument for implementing international action on certain persistent organic pollutants with a view to its conclusion by 2000, and encourages the United Nations Environment Programme to make more progress on the other pending negotiations;

"6. *Encourages* the supporting role of the United Nations Environment Programme to developing countries, particularly in Africa through the development of policy support and capacity-building for international environmental negotiation, *inter alia*, through the revitalization of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment;

"7. *Supports* the reform being undertaken in the United Nations Environment Programme, and underscores the need for additional stable, adequate and predictable financial resources to ensure the full implementation of its mandates."

12. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Guyana orally revised it by inserting a new operative paragraph after paragraph 7, reading:

"*Stresses* the importance of strengthening the Nairobi location of the United Nations Centre through, *inter alia*, enhancing the conference service facilities of the United Nations Office at Nairobi".

13. At the 46th meeting, on 3 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Daúl Matute (Peru), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme" (A/C.2/54/L.67), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.17.

14. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.67 (see para. 21, draft resolution III).

15. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.67, draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.17 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

## D. Draft resolutions A/C.2/54/L.22 and A/C.2/54/L.59

16. At the 36th meeting, on 9 November, the representative of the Russian Federation, on behalf of Canada, New Zealand, the Russian Federation and Turkey, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Linkages and synergies among environmental and environment-related conventions" (A/C.2/54/L.22), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 adopted at its nineteenth special session, in particular part IV thereof, entitled 'International institutional arrangements',

"*Recalling also* its resolutions 53/186 of 15 December 1998, entitled 'International institutional arrangements related to environment and development', and 53/242 of 28 July 1999, entitled 'Report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements',

"*Welcoming* the report of the Secretary-General on international institutional arrangements related to environment and development,

"*Taking note* of decision 20/28, entitled 'Promoting interlinkages among global environmental issues and human needs', adopted on 4 February 1999 by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

"*Emphasizing* that policy decisions under environmental and environment-related conventions are taken by the respective conferences of the parties, which are autonomous governing bodies,

"*Recognizing* the role of the General Assembly in fostering progress in the implementation of these conventions and of the commitments contained therein,

"*Taking note with appreciation* of the relevant ongoing work on the implementation of these conventions at the national, bilateral, regional and international levels,

"*Reaffirming the need*, as stipulated in part IV of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, for greater coherence in various intergovernmental organizations and processes through better policy coordination at the intergovernmental level, as well as for continued and more concerted efforts to enhance collaboration among the secretariats of relevant decision-making bodies,

"1. *Encourages* the Conferences of the Parties to and permanent secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, to further examine appropriate opportunities and measures to strengthen their complementarities and to improve scientific assessments of ecological linkages between the three conventions;

"2. *Emphasizes* the importance of the facilitation of and support for enhancing linkages and coordination within and among environmental and environment-related conventions, including by the United Nations Environment Programme, with full respect for the status of the respective convention secretariats and the autonomous decision-making prerogatives of the conferences of the parties to the conventions concerned, and recognizes in this regard the potential key role of the environmental management group, as stipulated in General Assembly resolution 53/242;

"3. *Stresses* the need to strengthen further the cooperation among the secretariats of the various environmental and environment-related conventions and other international organizations, with a view to facilitating progress in implementation of the conventions at the international, regional and national levels by:

"(a) Encouraging greater synergy and complementarity of activities undertaken to implement the commitments under various conventions;

"(b) Identifying possible activities with potential multiple benefits and bringing them to the attention of parties and conferences of the parties in order to promote them;

"(c) Promoting more effective and coherent support from international organizations and financial institutions and mechanisms for national action aimed at the implementation of the conventions, in particular in the area of capacity-building;

"(d) Encouraging further scientific analyses carried out by relevant international organizations, such as the United Nations Environment Programme, the secretariats of the conventions and their subsidiary bodies and the United Nations Secretariat;

"(e) Strengthening the capacity of parties to the conventions to participate effectively in the work of the conferences of the parties and other treaty bodies;

"(f) Addressing practical issues, such as more effective information exchange, enhanced awareness-raising, harmonization of national reporting and formulation of integrated national strategies for sustainable development;

"(g) Facilitating a more integrated and holistic approach to the implementation of environmental and environment-related conventions at the national level;

"(h) Bringing relevant issues to the General Assembly and relevant intergovernmental bodies for consideration by Member States and formulation of agreed policy recommendations with a view to promoting a more holistic approach;

"4. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the executive secretaries of the conventions, to prepare, on an annual basis, a report on progress in the implementation of the present resolution as well as on areas requiring further consideration by the General Assembly;

"5. *Decides* to include in its agenda, starting from its fifty-fifth session, a sub-item entitled 'Linkages and synergies among environmental and environment-related conventions' under the item entitled 'Environment and sustainable development', with a view to promoting a more integrated and synergistic approach to the implementation of these conventions."

17. At the 45th meeting, on 1 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Daúl Matute (Peru), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Enhancing complementarities among international instruments related to environment and sustainable development" (A/C.2/54/L.59), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.22.

18. At the same meeting, the representative of the Russian Federation proposed an amendment to operative paragraph 6 of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.59, by which the words "under the item entitled 'Environment and sustainable development'" would be added at the end of the paragraph.

19. Also at its 45th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.59, as orally amended (see para. 21, draft resolution IV).

20. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.59, draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.22 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

## III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

21. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

## Draft resolution I
## Conservation and sustainable development of Central African forest ecosystems

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992, General Assembly resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992, on the report of the Conference, and resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992, establishing the institutional arrangements for the follow-up to the Conference,

*Recalling also* its resolution 53/188 of 15 December 1998 on the implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly,

*Recalling further* the work of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests within the context of the Commission on Sustainable Development,

*Noting with appreciation* the Summit of Central African Heads of State on the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests, held at Yaoundé from 12 to 17 March 1999,

*Mindful* of the need for the conservation and sustainable management of the forest ecosystems of Central Africa, which constitute an important natural asset for present and future generations,

*Convinced* that the sustainable management of forest resources can contribute significantly to the economic, social and cultural development of the States that border on forests,

*Convinced also* of the important role of subregional and international cooperation in the management of forest ecosystems and of combating desertification, in keeping with the international commitments entered into by the international community,

*Considering* that a synergy of international and national efforts is essential in order to achieve sustainable development,

1. *Recognizes* the importance of the forests of the Central African subregion, the natural characteristics of which play an essential role in the equilibrium of the biosphere of the entire planet;

2. *Welcomes* the Declaration adopted by the Summit of Central African Heads of State on the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests, held at Yaoundé from 12 to 17 March 1999,[1] encourages the countries of Central Africa to implement to the fullest extent possible the undertakings set out in the Declaration, and recognizes the efforts made by those countries in this respect, in particular with regard to policy coherence and coordination, with a view to the sustainable management and conservation of the forest ecosystems of the Central African subregion;

3. *Invites* the international community to support the countries of Central Africa in these efforts, including through the provision of financial and technical assistance on a regional basis;

4. *Encourages* the international community, including the Global Environment Facility and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, when considering ways and means

[1] A/C.2/54/5, annex.

of achieving the conservation and sustainable management of all types of forests, to take into account, *inter alia*, the forests of the Central African subregion;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution, within the context of the reporting emanating from the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and taking into account other reporting requests under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development".

## Draft resolution II
## World Solar Programme 1996-2005

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolution 53/7 of 16 October 1998, by which it, *inter alia*, endorsed the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 as a contribution to the overall sustainable development agenda and invited all States Members of the United Nations to contribute to its successful implementation,

*Recalling also* resolution 29 C/14 concerning the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in November 1997,[2]

*Reaffirming* that the convening at Harare on 16 and 17 September 1996 of the World Solar Summit, at which the Harare Declaration on Solar Energy and Sustainable Development[3] was adopted and the preparation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005[4] approved, was a step in pursuance of the implementation of Agenda 21,[5] which is a multifaceted and, at the same time, fundamental programme of action for achieving sustainable development,

*Recognizing* that mutually supportive efforts at the national and international levels are imperative in the pursuit of sustainable development, which includes, *inter alia*, the provision of financial resources and the transfer of technology for the application of cost-effective energy systems and wider use of environment-friendly, renewable energies,

*Acknowledging* the important role of the General Assembly in promoting the World Solar Programme 1996-2005,

*Acknowledging also* the role of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council as forums for the discussion of new and renewable sources of energy and sustainable development,

*Expressing its appreciation* of the efforts of the Secretary-General in bringing the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 to the attention of relevant sources of funding and technical assistance,

*Noting* the establishment of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Energy with a view to ensuring the coordination of the activities of all relevant organizations of the United

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[2] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twenty-ninth Session, Paris, 21 October-12 November 1997*, vol. I: *Resolutions*.

[3] A/53/395, annex, sect. II.

[4] Ibid., annex, sect. V.D.

[5] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

Nations system in the preparations for the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2001, and to contributing to sustainable development, taking into account the recommendations of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005,

*Noting* that the Global Renewable Energy Education and Training Programme 1996-2005[6] constitutes one of the major programmes of universal value of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005,

*Calling* for further action to ensure that the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 is fully integrated into and brought into the mainstream of the efforts of the United Nations system towards attaining the objective of sustainable development,

*Emphasizing* that the achievement of more substantive results in the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, as part of the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, will require the more active and collaborative involvement of all concerned parties, including Governments, multilateral funding agencies and relevant parts of the United Nations system,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the World Solar Programme 1996-2005,[7] including measures taken by the various entities of the United Nations system for the implementation of the Programme;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in promoting, within its mandate, the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, in particular its education and training programmes in the field of new and renewable sources of energy, and, in this context, also notes with appreciation the initiative undertaken by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of inviting the competent organs and programmes of the United Nations system to cooperate in the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005;

3. *Notes* the role that the World Solar Commission has so far played in the mobilization of international support and assistance for the implementation of many of the national high-priority projects on renewable sources of energy included in the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, many of which are being executed with national funding;

4. *Commends highly* the efforts of many Member States in taking concrete national actions, including legislative measures, that have resulted in the wider use of renewable sources of energy in their countries;

5. *Notes with appreciation* the financial support that has been provided by some developed countries that are Members of the United Nations and some intergovernmental organizations, within and outside the United Nations system, in the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005;

6. *Calls upon* all relevant funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to support, as appropriate, the efforts being made for the development of the renewable energy sector in developing countries on the basis of environment-friendly, renewable sources of energy of demonstrated viability, while taking fully into account the development structure of energy-based economies of developing countries, and to assist in the attainment of the levels of investment necessary to expand energy supplies beyond urban areas;

7. *Takes note* of the decision of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization regarding the strategic importance of the

[6] See A/53/395, annex, sect. IV.A.

[7] A/54/212.

Global Renewable Energy Education and Training Programme 1996-2005 in attaining the objective of sustainable development, and encourages the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to make efforts to promote public awareness in all Member States in this regard, with the support of international, regional and national institutions, both public and private;

8. *Invites* all Governments to encourage the involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, in the promotion of research on and the development of renewable sources of energy, in particular, within this context, in the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, in accordance with their respective national policies;

9. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote the mobilization of adequate technical assistance and funding and the full utilization of existing international funds for the effective implementation of national and regional high-priority projects in the area of renewable sources of energy;

10. *Invites* the Inter-Agency Working Group on Energy to facilitate the contribution of the work under the World Solar Programme to the consideration of the theme of energy by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its ninth session, to be held in 2001;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant organizations, to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on concrete action being taken for the effective implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, including promotion for mobilization of resources;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include, in his report on energy and sustainable development to the Commission on Sustainable Development, a report on action to be taken to implement the present resolution, including further recommendations on appropriate modalities to promote new and renewable sources of energy;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005".

## Draft resolution III
## Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, by which it decided to establish the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 53/187 of 15 December 1998 on the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and 53/242 of 28 July 1999 on the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements,

*Recalling further* the results and decisions of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly, convened for the purpose of the overall review and appraisal of the

implementation of Agenda 21,[8] and, in particular, paragraphs 119 and 122 to 124 of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[9]

*Recalling* the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme,[10] adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its nineteenth session,

*Having considered* the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twentieth session,[11]

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twentieth session and the decisions contained therein;[11]

2. *Takes note*, in particular, of Governing Council decision 20/31 of 4 February 1999, entitled "Proposed programme budget of the United Nations Environment Programme: revised requirements for the biennium 1998-1999 and proposed requirements for the biennium 2000-2001"[12], in which the Governing Council gives concrete support to the integrated work programme of the Programme and endorsement of its new functional organizational structure, and anticipates an increased level of funding to the Environment Fund for the biennium 2000-2001;

3. *Supports* the proposals for the facilitation of and support for enhancing linkages and coordination within and among environmental and environment-related conventions, *inter alia*, by the United Nations Environment Programme, with full respect for the status of the respective convention secretariats and the autonomous decision-making prerogatives of the conferences of the parties to the conventions concerned;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session, and encourages the Governing Council at future sessions to provide its scientific, technical and policy information and analysis of and advice on global environmental issues to the Commission at future sessions and, in particular, to contribute to the preparation of the ten-year review of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002;

5. *Welcomes* the progress in the negotiation of an international legally binding instrument for implementing international action on certain persistent organic pollutants with a view to its earlier conclusion;

6. *Encourages* the supporting role of the United Nations Environment Programme for developing countries, particularly in Africa through the development of policy support and capacity-building for international environmental negotiation, *inter alia*, through the revitalization of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment;

7. *Stresses* the importance of strengthening the United Nations Office at Nairobi in its capacity as the only United Nations Office located in a developing country, and encourages the increased utilization of its facilities;

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[8] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[9] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[10] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/52/25), annex, decision 19/1, annex.

[11] Ibid., *Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 25* and addendum (A/54/25 and Add.1).

[12] Ibid., annex, decision 20/31.

8. *Notes* the increased cooperation and collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) within the framework of their respective mandates and separate programmatic, budgetary and organizational identities, with a view to improving the effectiveness of their work;

9. *Calls upon* all countries to ensure the provision of sufficient financial resources, on a stable and predictable basis, for the successful implementation of the work programme for the biennium 2000-2001;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the necessary resources from the regular budget of the United Nations to the United Nations Environment Programme for the biennium 2000-2001 in accordance with current budgetary practices and to consider ways to further support the revitalization of the Programme.

## Draft resolution IV
## Enhancing complementarities among international instruments related to environment and sustainable development

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21[13] adopted at its nineteenth special session, in particular part IV thereof, entitled "International institutional arrangements",

*Recalling also* its resolutions 53/186 of 15 December 1998, on international institutional arrangements related to environment and development, and 53/242 of 28 July 1999, on the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on international institutional arrangements related to environment and development,[14]

*Taking note* of decision 20/28, on promoting interlinkages among global environmental issues and human needs, adopted on 4 February 1999 by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,[15]

*Emphasizing* that policy decisions under the respective conventions are taken by the conferences of the parties thereto, which are autonomous governing bodies,

*Noting* that various conventions related to environment and sustainable development are at different stages of implementation, and recognizing the role of the General Assembly in fostering progress in the implementation of environmental and environment-related conventions and of the commitments contained therein,

*Noting with appreciation* the relevant ongoing work on the implementation of environmental and environment-related conventions at the national, bilateral, regional and international levels,

*Reaffirming* the need, as stipulated in part IV of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, for greater coherence in various intergovernmental organizations and processes by means of better policy coordination at the intergovernmental

[13] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[14] A/54/468.

[15] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/54/25), annex.

level, as well as for continued and more concerted efforts to enhance collaboration among the secretariats of relevant decision-making bodies,

*Emphasizing* the need for environmental conventions to continue to pursue sustainable development objectives that are consistent with their provisions and to be fully responsive to Agenda 21,[16]

1. *Encourages* the Conferences of the Parties to, and the permanent secretariats of, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[17] the Convention on Biological Diversity[18] and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,[19] to further examine appropriate opportunities and measures to strengthen their complementarities and to improve scientific assessments of ecological linkages among the three conventions;

2. *Stresses* the need for the integrated consideration of linkages, both among sectors and between sectoral and cross-sectoral aspects of Agenda 21;[16]

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of facilitating and supporting the enhancement of linkages and coordination within and among environmental and environment-related conventions, *inter alia*, by the United Nations Environment Programme, with full respect for the status of the secretariats of the conventions and the autonomous decision-making prerogatives of the conferences of the parties to the conventions concerned and, in this regard, supports the proposal of the Secretary-General concerning the establishment of an environmental management group for the purpose of enhancing inter-agency coordination in the areas of environment and human settlements, as stipulated in General Assembly resolution 53/242;

4. *Notes with appreciation* all the progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/186;

5. *Encourages* the secretariats of the various environmental and environment-related conventions and international organizations, with full respect for the status of the secretariats of the conventions and the autonomous decision-making prerogatives of the conferences of the parties to the conventions concerned, to strengthen cooperation with a view to facilitating progress in the implementation of those conventions at the international, regional and national levels by:

(a) Identifying opportunities for complementarity of activities undertaken to facilitate the implementation of commitments made by the parties to the various conventions;

(b) Encouraging the carrying out of further scientific analyses by relevant international organizations, such as the United Nations Environment Programme, the secretariats of the conventions, their subsidiary bodies, the United Nations Secretariat and relevant international scientific bodies, in order to identify possible activities with potential multiple benefits and to bring them to the attention of the conferences of the parties;

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[16] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[17] A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

[18] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

[19] A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

(c) Promoting more effective and coherent support from international organizations and financial institutions and mechanisms for national action aimed at the implementation of the conventions, in particular in the area of capacity-building;

(d) Addressing practical issues, such as more effective exchange of information, enhanced awareness-raising and streamlining of national reporting;

(e) Supporting, upon request, efforts being made at the national level towards adopting an integrated and holistic approach to the implementation of environmental and environment-related conventions;

(f) Bringing relevant issues to the attention of the General Assembly and relevant intergovernmental bodies for the consideration of Member States and the formulation of agreed policy recommendations, with a view to promoting a more holistic approach;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the executive secretaries of the conventions, to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to submit it the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session for consideration under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development".